

RECOLLECTIONS OF OLD COLLECTING GROUNDS.

By H. F. WICKHAM, Iowa City, Iowa.

VII.—The Vicinity of Colorado Springs.

Two years ago, in company with my wife and a friend, I spent a few weeks in the mountains of Colorado. Our first stop was made at Colorado Springs, which we reached on the fifteenth of June, apparently in the very height of the collecting season.

The town lies on the extreme eastern edge of the Rocky Mountain region proper, in a rolling piece of country broken by many small hills which rise to the westward until they are lost in the grander heights of the Cheyenne Mountains and the numerous summits which surround the snow-covered apex of Pike's Peak. The lower levels are covered with the characteristic weeds and shrubs of the arid plains, while at a height of two or three hundred feet above the creek the scrub oaks put in an appearance. The numerous canons which open from the hills support an almost entirely different class of plants, the oaks becoming more plentiful and being intermixed with numerous conifers and flowering shrubs. These shrubs often extend out of the mouths of the canons along the courses of the little creeks, and in consequence the accompanying insect-fauna which we might otherwise consider as being confined to the mountain ranges is carried out some distance on to the adjacent plain.

The altitude of Colorado Springs is approximately 6,000 feet. But since it is the most favored summer resort in the State and much frequented by a class of health and pleasure seekers, business enterprise has resulted in the construction of railroads or electric lines to many points of interest in the vicinity which would otherwise be difficult of access without the expenditure of considerable time. Thus it is easy to visit the Garden of the Gods, the canons in the Cheyenne Mountains and those near Manitou without any great exertion. Some of these are very rich in insects, particularly Williams' Cañon, which lies close to Manitou. The railroad to the summit of Pike's Peak offers a smooth walk for the pedestrian, but the results of our high altitude collecting here, by no means encourage a recommendation to others.

While not wishing to present a complete list of our captures

here, it seems worth while to mention some of the most striking characteristics of the coleopterous fauna, particularly since the region is one likely to be visited by any trancontinental traveler. By a perusal of the following notes some idea of the character of the beetles obtained may be secured.

The only *Cicindela* seen in June was *C. repanda*, which was common along the creek in the north Cheyenne cañon. In July I took some *C. punctulata* on muddy flats in fields near the Rock Island railroad tracks; they were hardly typical, but approximated the variety *micans* very closely. A single example of *remusa* was taken during this month, running along a sandy road.

Among the Carabidae we met with comparatively few species, and the genera *Xebria*, *Xotiophilus*, *Dyschirius* and *Clicina*, all of which we expected to see, were quite absent. Many *Psimachus elongatus* were found in the sandy soil beneath ties along the Rock Island tracks, but none occurred elsewhere, with the single exception of a specimen from the north Cheyenne cañon. *Bembidium lugubre* and *B. bimaculatum* were both rather abundant along small streams, particularly in Williams' Cañon, where we also found an example of *Carabus serratus*. *B. bifossulatum*, *consimile* and *versicolor* were rather common on a small saline mud-flat near the town. *Pterostichus incisus* occurred with *Psimachus* in moderate numbers; sometimes it was also accompanied by *P. luczotii*, which, however, was more common in the damp cañons. *Diculus sculptilis* was captured under stones in sheltered spots in Williams' and Cheyenne cañons. About roots of plants we scratched up *Cymindis planipennis*, *Philophaga amara* and *Blechnus nigrinus*, with an occasional *Pisosoma setosum*, though this last species is quite as frequently seen under boards in open spaces, in company with *Nothopus zabroides*.

Dytiscidae were not very abundant, and we could find none whatever in the little stream which is followed by the Pike's Peak road. However, we got a fine lot of *Agabus cordatus* in a rill which runs through Williams' Cañon. This species is easily taken by lifting up small stones, under which it hides; and, being by no means agile, capture readily follows detection. *A. lugens*, two species of *Hydroporus* and a *Colambus* accompanied it. *Dryops striatus* was very abundant. *Rhantus*

binotatus was once taken in some numbers in a small muddy pool among the low hills near the town.

Of the elytricorn beetles only a few seem to require mention. *Silpha ramosa*, *truncata* and *lapponica* were met with on carrion. *Batriscus frontalis* occurred under ties along the railroad track. *Eochoomus marginipennis* and its variety *athiops* was beaten from sage-brush, *Epilachna corrupta* was swept from plants on low ground. *Hyperaspis 4-riftata* was not rare, being scratched up from about the roots of plants. A very pretty little insect which I have referred with some doubt to *Hyperaspidius trimaculatus* was secured in abundance on cacti, where they evidently feed on the Aphides which infest these plants so badly. *Erotylus boisduvalii* was seen quite frequently in the canons, usually resting on the under sides of pine logs. Some few *Languria lecontei* were found in low meadows. *Carpophilus brachypterus* was very abundant on cactus blossoms.

Buprestidae were not very common as a rule. However, in Cheyenne Cañon we took *Buprestis maculicentris* and *Chrysobothris trinervia* on pine logs, *Agrilus anxius* on poplar, and *Anthaxia ancogaster* on flowers. In Williams' Cañon *Aemoderus pulchella* was extremely abundant on flowers in July, while with it occurred *A. sparsa* in much smaller numbers. *Rhyncheros sanguinipennis* frequented the same situations. *Collops bipunctatus* was plentiful on low plants in damp spots near the town. *Trichodes ornatus* was partial to flowers on the higher altitudes, while *Clerus abruptus* occurred mostly on plants in the arid districts.

In the Garden of the Gods *Euphoria kernii* was found in some numbers on flowers of *Argemone mexicana*. A single *E. fulgida* was taken at the mouth of the Cheyenne Cañon, while *Trichius affinis* was abundant on flowers of shrubs above the Seven Falls, a few occurring also in Bear Creek and William's Cañons.

The Cerambycidae were hardly as plentiful as one would expect. *Bulyx suturalis* and *ignicollis* both occurred on thistle and other blossoms rather commonly, chiefly in the hills about town. *Leptura chrysocoma* and *L. sanguinea* were found along the Pike's Peak road above Manitou. *Aemopsis longicornis* was occasionally seen on flowers near Bear Creek. *Mono- hammus scutellatus* and *Xylotrechus undulatus* were taken from

pine logs in Cheyenne Cañon, while *Monilema annulatum* was obtained in small numbers on cacti.

Chrysomelidæ were very abundant. *Eurysepta lecontei* was beaten from scrub oak, in company with *Coscinoptera dominicana*. *C. arillaris* was very plentiful on various low plants, in company with the much less abundant *C. vittigera*. The other members of the family must mostly be passed over without notice; but it seems worth while to record the capture, near the town, of numbers of *Microhopala cyanea*, varying from blue to green, and well up in Williams's Cañon we found a few *Odontota collaris* on grass blades. The Tenebrionidæ offer little of interest, most of the species taken having been found under ties along the railroads. Mention may be made of *Asida opaca*, *A. polita*, *Eleodes extricata*, *obsoleta*, *tricostata*, *longicollis*, *lecontei* and *nigrina*, and *Embaphion muricatum*. *Mela sublucis* was taken in considerable numbers on a sandy flat inside the city limits, crawling about during the morning hours. *Zonitils bilineata* was found rather rarely on composites in July.

Rhynchophora were abundant in individuals; no sweeping could be done in patches of weeds on low ground without yielding some of the forms belonging near *Smicronyx*. On various flowers *Rhynchites eximius* occurred in great numbers, being one of the very commonest insects during June, though much rarer in July. I never met with this beautiful weevil at any other point, and it seems quite uncommon in collections, in spite of this wonderful local abundance.

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A NEW SPECIES OF NOMOTETTIX FROM KANSAS.

BY DR. J. L. HANCOCK.

Among some Tettigidæ kindly sent to me by Prof. Hugo Kahl, of the Kansas University, I find an example of a species of *Nomotettix* which is not referable to any described species. I append the following brief description, pending the appearance of a more extensive paper on the whole group, which will contain a figure of this species.

Nomotettix acuminatus, sp. nov.

Similar to *N. parvus*, differing as follows: Larger stature, including relative proportions of body, vertex from above more acute-angulate, the mammilla of occiput more distinct, the anterior margin of dorsum a little more produced over the head. Wings posteriorly reach slightly beyond the apical process. From *cristatus* it is distinguished by the more slender form of the body, besides having the median carina of the pronotum less arched longitudinally.

Length of ♀, 9 mm.; pronotum, 8; hind femora, 5; antenna. : 5. Locality, Lawrence, Kan. Prof. Hugo Kahl.